

REMARKS

Claims 18 and 20 to 34 are currently pending in the application. Claims 18, and 21 to 34 have been allowed. Claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice and claims 18, 20, and 34 have been amended. All of the amendments find full support in the specification, claims and drawings as filed. No new matter has been added. In view of the amendments, and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and a timely notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner objected to the drawings, because Fig. 5 should be bracketed as per Rule 1.84(h)(1). Accordingly, Applicants submit an amended Fig. 5 with this Amendment. Amended Fig. 5 is bracketed as per Rule 1.84(h)(1). Applicants respectfully request entry of amended Fig. 5. For clarity, Fig. 6 was moved to the second sheet of drawings, but only Fig. 5 has been amended. Accordingly, Applicants are submitting herewith replacement sheets 1 and 2 of the drawings and respectfully request entry of both replacement sheets. In view of amended Fig. 5, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated.

The Examiner objected to the specification. In particular, the Examiner objected to the incorporation of material by reference to foreign applications in the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4. Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 to remove the incorporation by reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated. In addition, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 16 and the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 7 for clarity. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claim 20 recites "the spiral guiding ring comprising a step," but that the step appears to be recited in claim 1. Claim 1 was canceled in a previously filed Preliminary Amendment, and claim 20 depends from claim

19 which in turn depends from claim 18. Applicants therefore address this rejection with regard to claim 20 in view of claim 18.

5 Applicants have amended claim 18 to replace the word "step" with the word "detent" as found in allowed claim 19. Amended claim 18 finds full support in the specification as filed on page 9, lines 7 to 17. Applicants have cancelled claim 19 and amended claim 20 to change the dependency from claim 19 to claim 18. In view of the amendment to claims 18 and 20, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

10 Applicants have also amended claim 34 to depend from 30 instead of claim 22. As claim 30 has been allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 34 is in condition for allowance.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Not all of the allowed claims require all of the elements specified in the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. For example, independent claims 22, 26 and 30 comprise a suction cup, a pulling bar, a cover, a spiral guiding cap, and a locking cap. Some claims have additional limitations that further render the subject matter patentable.

CONCLUSION

20 In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

No fee is believed due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees believed due with this Response to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHELDON & MAK PC

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By


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